Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6   (*canceled*)

7.   (*New*) Method of translating input data into at least one lexical output sequence, the method comprising decoding input data so (a) sub-lexical entities represented by the said data are identified by using a first model determined by predetermined sub-lexical entities, and (b) various possible combinations of the said sub-lexical entities are generated, as the sub-lexical entities are identified and with reference to at least one second model constructed on the basis of lexical entities, including storing a plurality of possible combinations of the said sub-lexical entities, the most likely combination being intended to form the lexical output sequence.

8.   (*New*) Translation method according to Claim 7, further including validating, with reference at least to the second model, the storage of a combination.

9.   (*New*) Translation method according to Claim 8, wherein the validating of the storage of a combination is accompanied by an allocation to the combination to be stored of a probability value representing the likelihood of the said combination.

10.   (*New*) Translation method according to Claim 9, wherein various validation operations relating to various combinations relating to one and the same state of the first model are executed contiguously in time.

11.   (*New*) Translation method according to Claim 8, wherein various validation operations relating to various combinations relating to one and the same state of the first model are executed contiguously in time.

12.   (*New*) Translation method according to Claim 7, wherein the decoding step uses a Viterbi algorithm applied to a first Markov model having sub-lexical entities, under the dynamic control of a second Markov model representing possible combinations of sub-lexical entities.

13.   (*New*) Speech recognition system using the translation method according to Claim 7.

14.   (*New*) Speech recognition system using the translation method according to Claim 8.

15.   (*New*) Speech recognition system using the translation method according to Claim 9.

16.   (*New*) Speech recognition system using the translation method according to Claim 10.

17.   (*New*) Speech recognition system using the translation method according to Claim 11.

18.   (*New*) Speech recognition system using the translation method according to Claim 12.